



## Energy and Environmental Affairs

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## DCR Announces the Quabbin Reservoir Fishing Season to Open on Saturday, April 15, 2017

**BELCHERTOWN-** April 12, 2017- The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today announced that the Quabbin Reservoir Fishing Season will open on Saturday, April 15, 2017, starting at 5:00AM. In addition to shore fishing, all three boat launch sites – Area I (Gate 8) off Route 202 in Belchertown; Area II (Gate 31) off Route 31 in New Salem; and Area III (Gate 43) off Route 32A in Hardwick – will be in full operation and available for use that day. The boat launch areas will be open seven days a week during the season, which runs through October 14, 2017. With the exception of the early start on April 15<sup>th</sup>, the three boat launch areas will open at 6:00AM for the remainder of the season.

"Fishing at the Quabbin Reservoir has become a time honored tradition for many Massachusetts and out-of-state residents," said **DCR Commissioner Leo Roy**. "The Baker-Polito Administration is excited for another year of excellent outdoor recreational activities for individuals and their families to enjoy at the Quabbin Reservoir and other locations within the state park system's 450,000 acres of parkland."

Quabbin Season Parking Passes, which include parking and launching fees will be available for purchase at all three boat launch areas. Season passes are \$50 for the year or \$25 for seniors over 62 years old with proof of age and individuals with handicapped placards. A single day use to park a vehicle and trailer is \$8 per day.

All private boats launched on the Quabbin Reservoir must meet boat specification regulations and have an intact Quabbin Boat Seal which affixes the boat to the trailer. Boat owners who do not have a Quabbin Boat Seal can make a DCR boat inspection and decontamination appointment through the Quabbin Visitor Center. For public safety and security concerns, all boats, trailers, and/or vehicles must be attended. Any unattended boats, trailers and/or vehicles will not be permitted and may be subject to fines, towing, or both.

In addition to private boat launching facilities, boat rentals are available on a first come-first serve basis at all three boat launch areas. The cost for a boat and motor rental is \$40 per day with a \$6 per vehicle parking fee. The Quabbin Reservoir supports 27 species of fish, 17 of which are sought by anglers. In spring, the most prolific fish include lake trout, landlocked salmon, smallmouth bass, and white perch. For further information, please visit DCR's website at [www.mass.gov/dcr/quabbinfish](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/quabbinfish) or call the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Leo Roy, the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).

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